Where do blueberries come from?

Highbush blueberries (also called cultivated blueberries) grow on bushes that are planted in long rows. The bushes can grow up to 12 feet tall, but most are around 6 feet tall. Clusters of beautiful white blossoms appear all over the bushes in the spring. They are pollinated by bees. It becomes one blueberry, first hard and green, then a reddish color and finally blue and sweet and ready to harvest. The fresh blueberry harvest is mainly done by hand. It is hard work, but the pickers are experts and work very quickly. Dark blue berries are pulled from the branches and placed into buckets or pails. Blueberries are also picked by big machines called harvesters that move slowly along the rows of blueberry bushes, gently shaking off the ripe berries. The blueberries are gathered in large bins. Then they transported by truck or tractor from the field to the packing plant. There the blueberries are placed on moving conveyor belts. The blueberries are sorted and the bruised and unripe ones are removed. Only plump, beautiful berries are allowed to pass the inspection point. Fresh blueberries are placed in clear plastic containers called "clam shell" containers. They are placed in cardboard boxes and stored in large refrigerated rooms, then loaded onto big trucks that take the blueberries to market.